

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 6, 2015
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David A. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Nadine A. Hawver, Clerk
Rene C. Wood

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator
James Larkin, Agricultural Commission

Members of the public

Chairman Smith opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Hawver moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 3, 2015 as amended and the meeting minutes from March 4, 2015, and March 23, 2015 as presented, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously for the March 3, 2015 minutes. The motion carried 2-0 for the March 4, 2015 and March 23, 2015 meeting minutes, Selectman Wood abstained.

APPROVAL OF HOUSING COMMISSION AND CULTURAL COUNCIL SURVEYS:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Housing Commission and Cultural Council have requested that the surveys be posted on the Town website and e-mail blasted. Discussion ensued. Selectman Hawver moved to post the Housing Commission and Cultural Council surveys on the website and send an e-mail blast stating that there are two surveys on the website, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

TERMINATION NOTICE FOR BUSINESS PARK LOT SALE – BORESTONE:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Board would need to approve the Termination Notice in order for the sale of the Business Park lot to go through. She stated that the Town would share in some of the proceeds from the sale of the property. Selectman Wood moved to sign the Termination Notice between the Town of Sheffield and Borestone LLC as presented, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF VOTE FOR FARM ANIMAL EXCISE:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Agricultural Commission recommended stopping the farm animal excise tax. She stated that it would then switch over to either excise or personal property tax for equipment and vehicles. Administrator LaBombard explained that this vote had been taken at a previous meeting due to time constraints and recommended that it be ratified at a regular meeting. James Larkin, member of the Agricultural Commission, was present to thank the Board for voting to put the Farm Animal Excise on the Annual Election ballot. The Board thanked Mr. Larkin for all of his work on this. Selectman Wood moved to ratify the vote to put the removal of the farm

animal excise tax on the Annual Town Election Ballot, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

BRTA PILOT PROGRAM:

Tabled until next meeting.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Annual Town Meeting Warrant is very long this year. She stated that a meeting has been scheduled for April 17, 2015 at 2:00 PM for the Board to discuss the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE ELDERLY TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Board voted not to sign the memorandum of understanding with Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation for FY16. She stated that the vote was taken at a working meeting last week because of the deadline for submitting the memorandum of understanding.

FY2016 SBRSD BUDGET:

Administrator LaBombard explained that Selectman Wood presented a letter to the School Committee at their meeting on April 2, 2015 regarding the increase in the FY2016 budget. Selectman Wood expressed her disappointment with the way she was treated by the School Committee, the way that the letter was received and the lack of respect for the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. She stated that she does not feel the Board is being heard and if the budget is approved she does not know where it will end. She stated that she does not support the school budget as a Selectman or as a voter. Selectman Hawver commended Selectman Wood for being so gracious at the School Committee meeting and stated that the arrogance and rudeness was unacceptable and encouraged residents to go to CTSB.org and watch the School Committee meeting from April 2, 2015.

BRACKETT AND LUCAS RETIREMENT:

Administrator LaBombard stated that a letter has been received from Gary Brackett notifying the Town of his retirement which will result in the firm being closed effective June 30, 2015. Selectman Hawver moved to send Brackett and Lucas a thank you letter for their services, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

LIST OF EXPIRING POSITIONS FOR FY2016:

Administrator LaBombard read the following list of vacant positions:

- Agricultural Commission: 2 vacancies ó 3 year term
- Agricultural Commission Alternate: 2 vacancies ó 1 year term
- Animal Control Officer: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
- Animal Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission: 2 vacancies ó 3 year term
- Principal Assessor: 1 vacancy ó 3 year term
- BRPC Delegate Alternate: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
- Board of Health: 1 vacancy ó 3 year term
- Conservation Commission: 3 vacancies ó 3 year term
- Constable: 2 vacancies ó 1 year term
- Council on Aging: 4 vacancies ó 3 year term
- Cultural Council: 3 vacancies ó 3 year term

Commission on Disabilities: 6 vacancies ó 3 year term
Electrical Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Assistant Electrical Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Fire Chief: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Gas & Piping Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Alternate Gas & Piping Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Health Agent: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Health Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Historical Commission: 2 vacancies ó 3 year term
Housing Commission: 2 vacancies ó 3 year term
Housing Commission Alternate: 2 vacancies ó 1 year term
Parking Clerk: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Planning Board Associate Member: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Plumbing Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Assistant Plumbing Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Full Time Police Officer: 4 vacancies ó 3 year term
Reserve Intermittent Police Officer: 4 vacancies ó 3 year term
Public Weigher: 4 vacancies ó 1 year term
Recycling Coordinator: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Sanitation Inspector: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Southern Berkshire District Veterans Service Delegate: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Town Clerk: 1 vacancy ó 3 year term
Assistant Town Clerk: 1 vacancy ó 3 year term
Town Counsel: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Special Town Counsel: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Tree Warden: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Veterans Agent: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Veterans Grave Officer: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term
Zoning Board of Appeals: 1 vacancy ó 3 year term
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate: 1 vacancy ó 1 year term

Administrator LaBombard stated that the list of vacancies will be posted on the website and letters will be sent to all people whose terms are expiring.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RESIGNATIONS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Police Chief has submitted a letter requesting that the Scott Farrell and Andrew Carlson be removed from the roster and appointment list because they have been inactive for more than a year. Selectman Wood moved to accept Scott Farrell and Andrew Carlson's resignations and send them both letters thanking them for their service, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

AWARD BID FOR SURPLUS VEHICLE:

Administrator LaBombard stated that one bid was received for the 2009 Crown Victoria from Jerid Hassan in the amount of \$557.23. Selectman Hawver moved to accept the bid from Jerid

Hassan for the 2009 Crown Victoria in the amount of \$557.23, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRE FIGHTER APPOINTMENTS:

Tabled until the next meeting.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood congratulated the Mount Everett robotics team for making to the world championship.

Selectman Wood gave an update on the status of the letter she drafted that was sent to the Director of Renewable and Alternative Energy Development requesting that the corresponding CMRs be structured to increase the payback to the Commonwealth by reducing the investment costs incurred by municipal and regional school districts wishing to invest in renewable thermal technologies. She stated that she received a call from Representative Pignatelli's Office stating that they would continue to be mindful of our request.

Selectman Wood stated that she has five weeks left on the Board of Selectmen and stated that one of her priorities is to schedule a working meeting to go over some of the financial matters that have been discussed over the past year.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that she has found that the Town Hall being closed on Wednesdays to the public to be beneficial to the employees who have been able to concentrate on special projects and filing. She stated that if residents need to come to Town Hall on a Wednesday to call ahead and they would be accommodated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bonnie Silvers stated that she thinks it is a brilliant idea for the Town Hall to close to the public on Wednesdays. She stated that Town Hall employees always stop what they are doing to help residents when they come to Town Hall and she thinks that it is great that employees will have a chance to do work uninterrupted.

Bonnie Silvers apologized to Selectman Wood for the way that she was treated at the School Committee meeting. She stated that she hopes there is a way to begin a constructive dialog between the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining strategy for the Sheffield Patrolman's Association and not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Smith – Aye
Selectman Hawver - Aye
Selectman Wood - Aye

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Housing Commission Survey
Cultural Council Survey and Letter
Termination of Notice for Business Park Lot
Farm Animal and Machinery Excise Bulletin
Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation Memorandum of Understanding
Letter to Southern Berkshire Regional School District Regarding FY16 Budget
Bracket and Lucas Retirement Letter
List of Vacancies for FY16
Letter from Police Chief ó Officer Resignations
Surplus Vehicle Bid Sheet
E-mail from Fire Chief Recommending Appointment